

revenue from Medicare. This plan would hit them like a wrecking ball.

Now, it may well be that we need to make changes in the Medicare program. We must be realistic.

The answer is not, however, to simply approach Medicare reform as a budget cutting exercise. Because we are talking about preserving essential health services for 125,000 senior citizens in Montana and thirty million seniors across America.

We are talking about good, middle class Americans like the Jacksons.

And above all, we must not use Medicare as a piggy bank. Don't take money that buys health care for senior citizens and use it for a tax break for rich individuals and big corporations. That is disgraceful.

Perhaps some changes lie ahead. But if they do, they should be made for the single purpose of keeping Medicare services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. It is an issue of good faith on the part of the government, and basic, essential health services for Americans.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE K. ARTHUR

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Madam President, yesterday's Buffalo News reported the forthcoming retirement of Buffalo, NY, Common Council President George K. Arthur, after four decades of public service. Mr. Arthur, who has been Common Council President since 1983, is a distinguished public servant who has given much to the people of Buffalo. I know I speak for the people of Buffalo in offering George Arthur great thanks and congratulations. He will indeed be missed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the article from the Buffalo News be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Buffalo News, May 8, 1995]

POLITICAL LEADERS PRAISE ARTHUR'S ENDURING LEGACY

(By Anthony Cardinale)

George K. Arthur will leave a legacy of lasting achievement as Common Council president when he steps down on Dec. 31, several political observers said Sunday.

Never mind the decade of Common Council friction with then-Mayor James D. Griffin, who reserved his most stinging invective for the Council president and took particular delight in defeating Arthur's challenge for the mayor's office 10 years ago.

Arthur's proudest hour as a politician was when he beat the Democratic incumbent for the Democratic Party's endorsement in 1985, these observers agreed. And he would have ousted Griffin from City Hall, they added, if it weren't for the votes siphoned off by Nicholas Costantino as an independent candidate.

Arthur, 62, who announced over the weekend that he won't seek re-election, was first elected to the former Erie County Board of Supervisors in 1963. He was elected Ellicott District Council member in 1969, then Council member at large, and he has been Council president since 1983.

"I believe it's probably the longest political career of anybody in our area," said Vincent J. Sorrentino, Erie County Democratic chairman.

"He was part of the emergence of the black community into the mainstream of the political process in our community—he and

(Council President) Delmar Mitchell a little before him," said Joseph F. Crangle, Sorrentino's predecessor at the party helm.

"His leadership was instrumental in helping much of the rebirth of Buffalo," said Arthur O. Eve, deputy Assembly speaker, who pointed to measures to improve Buffalo's housing stock and quality of life.

Accolades for Arthur even came from Council Member Alfred T. Coppola of the Delaware District, who has often clashed with him—and who now wants to succeed him as Council president.

"We've disagreed on various projects, but we've also agreed on some," said Coppola, who has asked Sorrentino for his backing.

"George has always been a unique person," Coppola went on. "He's always been a gentleman. There were times when George pulled us together. He'd say, 'Let's sit around a breakfast table and let it all hang out on a Saturday morning.' Those were terrific meetings."

Arthur's ability to bring together dissenting parties was the common theme Sunday of those who have worked with him over the years.

"George did an excellent job in helping to forge together a very diverse group of men and women into a fairly cohesive body," Eve said. "That takes a lot of talent, patience and compassion."

Eve said he will work to help Council Majority Leader James W. Pitts become the next Council president.

"We certainly will miss (Arthur) as the Council president," Eve said, "but I'm in hopes that Jim Pitts will emerge as his replacement and the tradition that George Arthur started will continue and hopefully will grow."

Sorrentino, who reportedly supports Pitts, also credited Arthur as a consensus builder.

"He had a great quality of being able to bring consensus into very hostile situations—especially during the Griffin years," he said. "His leadership will be missed at these difficult times."

Sorrentino said he recently had breakfast with Arthur and learned then that he had all but decided to retire after this year.

"And I said, 'if you do, we certainly expect you to play a role in the campaign.' While he'd be retiring as president of the Common Council, he's not retiring from politics."

All four observers rejected the notion that Arthur had slowed down in recent years, no longer the civil rights firebrand who once joined the plaintiffs in the school desegregation suit and supported two other discrimination suits against the city's fire and police force.

"Very often with age comes wisdom—you're more prudent how you express things," said Crangle. "You put things in more perspective and focus than you did when you first started out."

Crangle said he greatly admires Arthur for standing up against Griffin.

"He was one of the towering strengths of the Democratic Party in City Hall," he said. "He did not get intimidated; he didn't in any way yield. And many times it was very lonely."

Coppola said that was when Arthur's "professionalism" shined brightest.

"There were moments when George was the acting mayor in some of the tougher years when Jimmy Griffin was really playing hardball," Coppola said. "And George never took advantage of the situation, especially when the mayor was out of town."

The former mayor was asked Sunday for his comment on Arthur's decision to retire.

"I wish him luck," Griffin said. "I wish him and his family the best."

THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

Mr. PELL. Madam President, today President Clinton is joining President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Major, Chancellor Kohl, and President Yeltsin in Moscow to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. That is as it should be. Together, after all, the United States, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union rid the world of the Nazi menace.

The anniversary of Allied triumph over the Nazis carries great significance for us all. For the Russian people, who lost more than 20 million of their fellow citizens during the war, this commemoration is particularly meaningful.

Now that the cold war is over, the allies have the opportunity to stand together again—this time to build a new Europe—democratic, whole, and free. The gathering of the five leaders in Moscow today should be seen as a commitment to that goal.

We have an enormous stake in Russia. United States engagement with Russia since the breakup of the Soviet Union has yielded significant results—particularly with regard to the reduction of weapons of mass destruction and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Europe. It is in the U.S. national interest to see that this process proceeds. Russian reformers offer the best prospect for continued progress on the issues that really count for the United States. Accordingly, we should be doing what we can to bolster Russia's democrats.

President Clinton has come under fire for going to Moscow at a time when Russia is pursuing some policies to which the United States is opposed. I believe this criticism is short-sighted and for the most part, politically motivated. Some of the same people who are criticizing the President for going to Moscow are also demanding that the administration deliver a tough message to Moscow about its behavior in Chechnya, its proposed sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran, and its views about NATO expansion. What better way to deliver the message than to go to Moscow and do it personally?

By going to Moscow, President Clinton is demonstrating to Russian leaders the benefits of continued engagement with the West. If he had decided to cancel his trip, President Clinton would be missing an opportunity to tell President Yeltsin and other Russian leaders—face to face—where he believes Russian policy is on the wrong track.

That being said, we should not have any illusions about our ability to change Russian policy overnight. We must be realistic. Russian leaders, like their counterparts worldwide are political creatures. With parliamentary elections looming at the end of this year, and Presidential elections scheduled for 1996, few Russian politicians want to be perceived as buckling to Western pressure. Russian nationalists, whose influence is regrettably on the